

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating a perfluorocompound comprising a means for obtaining a gas flow by diluting a perfluorocompound with nitrogen or air; a means for adding steam to said gas flow; a reactor for bringing said gas flow containing the added steam into contact with a catalyst to decompose the perfluorocompound; a heating means for heating said catalyst comprising Ni, Al and W as catalytically active ingredients and comprising a ~~mixed oxide or complex~~ composite oxide of Ni and Al and a ~~mixed oxide or complex~~ composite oxide of Ni and W which has been packed in said reactor, to the decomposition temperature of the perfluorocompound; and an exhaust gas washing tank for bringing a gas containing decomposition products produced in said reactor into contact with water or an alkali to remove hydrogen fluoride from the gas.

7. (Original) An apparatus for treating an etching gas wherein an apparatus for treating a perfluorocompound according to claim 6 is set so as to succeed an etching apparatus for a semiconductor or liquid crystal, whereby the etching gas is treated.

8. (New) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said catalyst comprises Ni and Al in a mole ratio of 5/95 to 40/60 and contains W in a proportion of 0.1 to 10 wt% based on the total weight of said catalyst comprising composite oxide of Ni and Al.

9. (New) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said catalyst comprises Ni and Al in a mole ratio of 5/95 to 40/60 and contains W in a proportion of 0.1 to 10 wt% based on the total weight of said catalyst comprising a composite oxide of Ni and Al.